Manson Accepts Temporary Lawyer

BY BON EINSTOSS
and DIAL TORGERSON
Times Staff Writers

Hippies clan leader Charles M. Manson, fighting for permission to defend himself in court, reluctantly agreed Monday to accept what he didn't want: a court-appointed attorney. But only temporarily.

"I have no other chance but to represent myself," said Manson, charged with murder for seven Tate and La Bianca killings. "There is no other person in the world who can represent me."

But Superior Judge William H. Keene, over wonderous protests of three lawyers who want to help Manson defend himself, appointed a leading attorney to serve as his interim counsel.

Attorney Joseph A. Ball, past president of the State Bar Assn. and senior legal counsel to the Warren Commission, will serve only to help Manson evaluate his plan to represent himself.

Throughout Monday's court hearing Manson insisted, again and again, that he wanted to represent himself with attorneys to advise him if he needed help.

And Judge Keene insisted, again and again, that he could appoint an attorney to discuss the idea with

Please Turn to Page 42, Col. 1

Continued from First Page

him before he makes his final decision.

Finally Manson agreed to Judge Keene's plan. "I'll accept his offer," he said.

The judge released the public defender as Manson's attorney of record and later appointed Ball who was to confer with the defendant today.

Manson is to return to Judge Keene's court at 11 a.m. Wednesday for a further hearing on his motion to be permitted to represent himself.

The three attorneys who had hoped to be allowed to assist Manson in his defense were infuriated with Keene's action.

One, George Shibley, told the judge Manson had heard Keene wants to become district attorney and he's afraid a person appointed by the trial judge might want to convict him.

Another, Luke McKissack, told newsmen outside the court: "What's he thought of Keene's interim attorney plan?

"It's illegal, inconstitutional, and damnable! He (Manson) had this razor down his throat."

Accuses Court

He added, "The court has been playing with this man's mind."

One of the former members of Manson's hippie clan, Susan Denise Atkins, 21, claimed that he maintained an almost hypnotic dominance over her and others in the group.

legal issue now rev
around Manson's m
and whether he is ca
of defending himself.

The law says he ca
so if mentally compe
Judge Keene in dec
whether to grant Man
wish has to weigh
flicting legal decision

Recent cases have
reversed by higher c
both when judges
permitted defendant
represent themselve
and when they have
fused to honor such
quests.

Manson adamantly
manded such permiss

"Your Honor," said
bearded, longhaired
son, "I know it's a
step. It's the only st
have. I realize that m
is at stake, and maybe
lives of four or five ot
It's my only chance."

Forceful Phrasing

Manson, 35, wo
bright purple shirt
bellbottom trousers
day.

He fingered his
combed beard as he sp
sometimes gesturing
the judge with a ye
pencil. His eyes da
from side to side as
attorneys clashed with
bench over his case.

voice was soft-spoken
clear, his grammar
his phrasing forceful.

The courtroom w
crowded with both spe
tors and newsmen.
spectators crowded to
wicket to listen as Man
spoke.

"Your Honor, I'm i
difficult position . . ."
crowd laughed.

He continued: "T
news media has alre
excoriated and buried me
anyone is hypnotized, i
the people who are hyp
tized by the lies be
given to them."

He was brought i
Judge Keene's court sh
ly after appearances th
by two young women w
have been identified
members of his roma
band.

Leslie Van Houte
charged only with the

LA Times 12/23/69